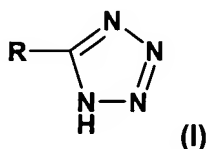


## Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for the manufacture of a tetrazole of formula



or a tautomer or a salt thereof, wherein R [[is]] represents an organic residue selected from the group consisting of

- phenyl or pyridyl each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, halo-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, formyl, di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkoxy-methyl, and C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkylene-methyl;

- C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>cycloalkyl;

- C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>cycloalkenyl;

- biphenyl that is unsubstituted or substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, halo-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, formyl, di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkoxy-methyl, and C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkylene-methyl;

- C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl that is unsubstituted or substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, phenyl; phenylsulphonyl, phenylsuphynyl, and phenylmercapto, phenyl being in each case unsubstituted or substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, and halo-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl;

- carboxy;

- N-phenyl-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl-amino phenyl being in each case unsubstituted or substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, and halo-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl; and

- C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkenyl that is unsubstituted or substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, phenyl, carboxy, and N-phenyl-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl-amino phenyl, being in each case unsubstituted or substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl, and halo-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkyl,

comprising

- (i) reacting a compound of formula **R-CN (II a)** with an azide of formula **(R<sub>1</sub>)(R<sub>2</sub>)M-N<sub>3</sub> (II b)**, wherein R has the meaning as defined above; R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, independently of another, represent an organic residue ~~such as~~ selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic residue, an alicyclic residue, a heteroalicyclic residue; an alicyclic-aliphatic residue; a heteroalicyclic-aliphatic residue; a carbocyclic ~~or~~ and a heterocyclic aromatic residue; an araliphatic residue or an heteroaraliphatic residue, each residue, independently of another; and M is boron or aluminium; and
- (ii) isolating the resulting compound of formula (I)

wherein,

- an aliphatic residue is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkenyl or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkynyl, each of which can be interrupted by NH, substituted NH, O, or S;

- an alicyclic residue is mono-, bi- or polycyclic, selected from the group consisting of C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>cycloalkenyl;

- a heteroalicyclic residue is an alicyclic residue, wherein at least one carbon atom is replaced by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of NH, substituted NH, O, and S;

- an alicyclic-aliphatic residue is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkenyl or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkynyl that is substituted by C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl or by C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>cycloalkenyl;

- a heteroalicyclic-aliphatic residue is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkynyl each of which substituted by C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl or by C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkenyl wherein one carbon atom of C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkenyl, respectively, is replaced by NH, substituted NH, O, or S;

- a carbocyclic aromatic residue selected from the group consisting of monocyclic, bicyclic and polycyclic, or benzoanellated carbocyclic residue;

- a heterocyclic aromatic residue is 5- or 6-membered and monocyclic radical which has up to four identical or different hetero atoms, selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms, preferably one, two, three or four nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

- an araliphatic residue is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkynyl each of which is substituted by phenyl or by naphthyl;

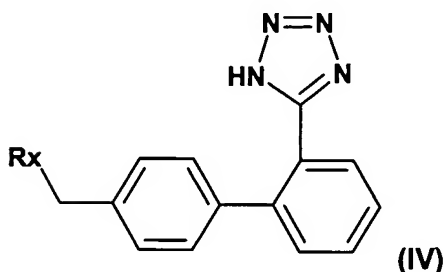
- an heteroaraliphatic residue is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkynyl each of which is substituted by pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, furyl, thienyl or pyridyl; and

- substituted NH is NH which is substituted by C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl, phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl-alkanoyl, phenyl-C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkanoyl, benzoyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkanesulfonyl or benzenesulfonyl, comprising

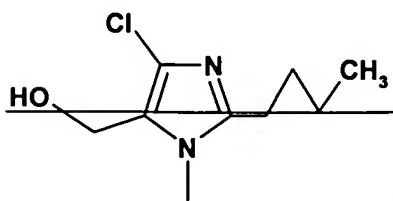
(i) reacting a compound of formula R-CN (II a) with an azide of formula (R<sub>1</sub>)(R<sub>2</sub>)M-N<sub>3</sub> (IIb), wherein R has the meaning as defined above; R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, independently of another, represent an aliphatic residue, an alicyclic residue, a heteroalicyclic residue, an alicyclic-aliphatic residue; a heteroalicyclic-aliphatic residue; a carbocyclic or a heterocyclic aromatic residue; an araliphatic residue or an heteroaraliphatic residue, each residue, independently of another, being unsubstituted or substituted; and M is boron or aluminium; and

(ii) isolating the resulting compound of formula (I).

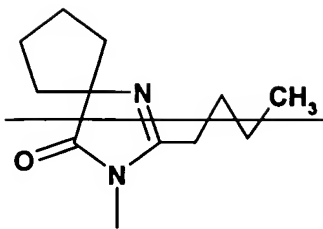
Claim 2 (currently amended): A process according to claim 1 for the manufacture of said ~~angiotensin II receptor antagonists having as structural feature a tetrazol ring, e.g. a~~ compound of formula (IV),



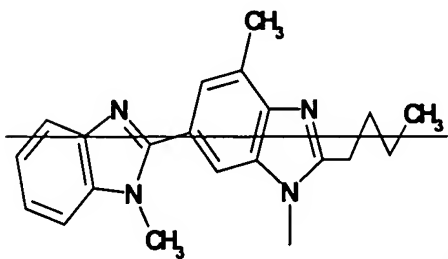
or a tautomeric form thereof, wherein Rx is ~~represents a structural element selected from the group consisting of~~



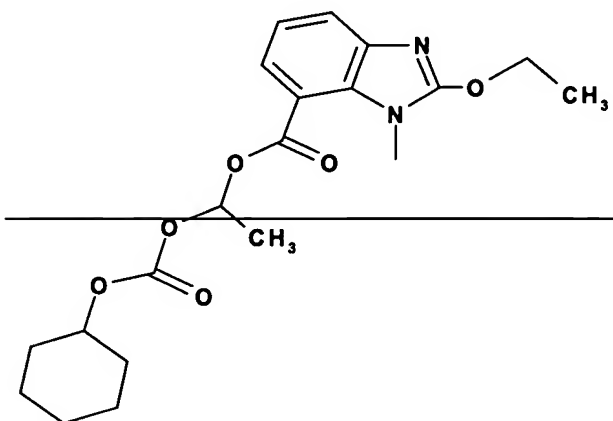
~~(derived from losartan - cf. EP 253310);~~



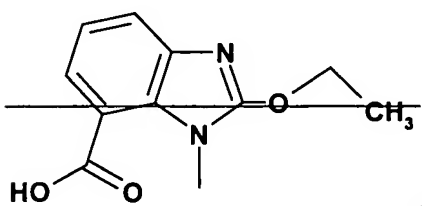
(derived from irbesartan - cf. EP 454511);



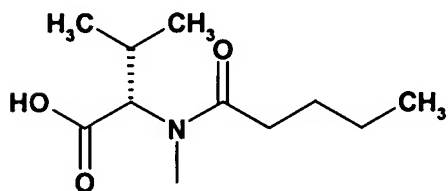
(derived from UR-7247);



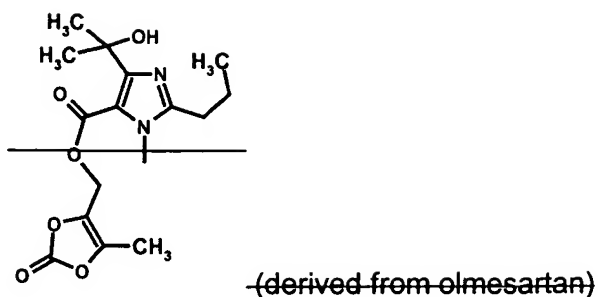
(derived from candesartan cilexetil - EP 459136);



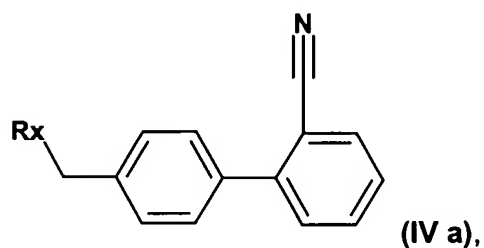
(derived from candesartan); and



(derived from valsartan - cf. EP 443983);

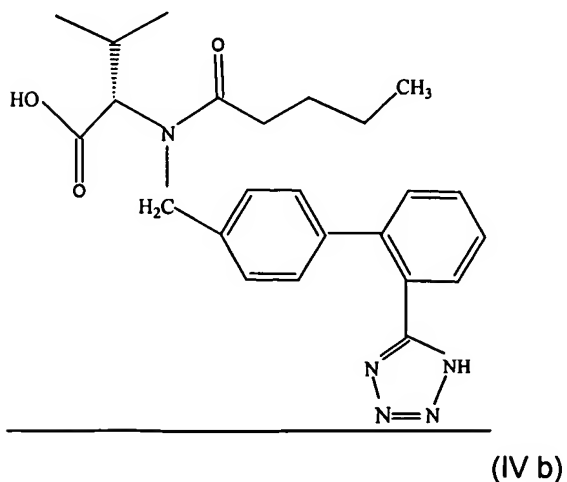


or, in each case, a salt thereof;  
 characterized by reacting a compound of formula (IV a)

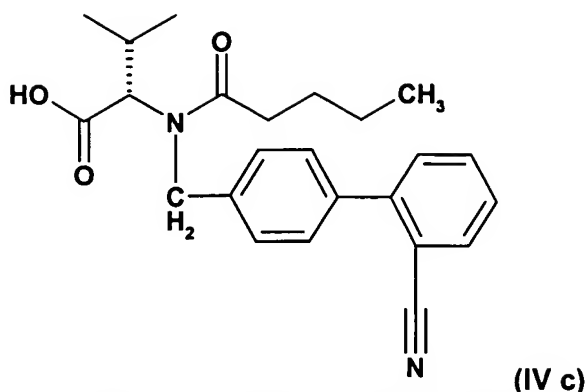


wherein Rx has the meanings as given above, with a compound of formula  $(R_1)(R_2)M-N_3$  (II b), wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , independently of one another, ~~represent an organic residue~~ have the meanings as defined above; and isolating the resulting compound of formula (IV).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A process according to claim 1 for the manufacture of a compound of formula (IV b)

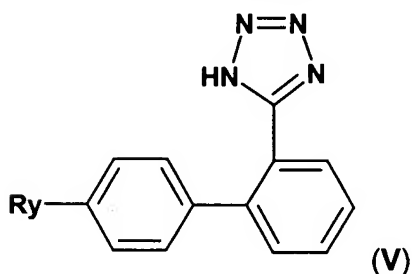


comprising reacting a compound of formula (IV c)

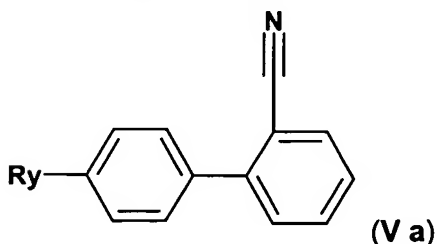


or an ester thereof with an azide of formula  $(R_1)(R_2)M-N_3$  (IIb), wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , independently of each other, have the meanings as defined above, and isolating the compound of formula (IV-b).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A process according to claim 1 for the manufacture of a compound of formula ~~manufacture of a compound of formula~~

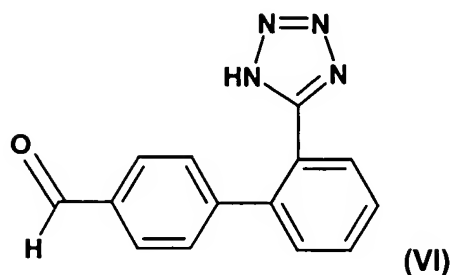


or a tautomeric form thereof wherein  $R_y$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkyl ~~such as methyl~~;  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkyl substituted by  $X'$  and  $X'$  being halogen, sulphonyloxy, hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, ~~such as bromomethyl~~, or an acetal of formyl; and  $X_1$  being in a benzylic position, comprising reacting a compound of formula ~~(IV-a)~~ (Va)



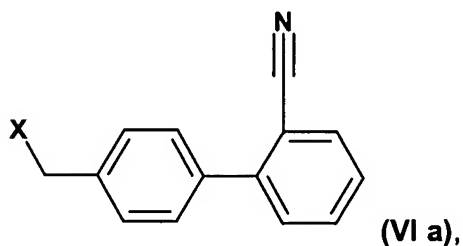
with a compound of formula  $(R_1)(R_2)M-N_3$  (II b), wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , independently of one another, ~~represent an organic residue~~ have the meanings as defined above; wherein  $R_y$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkyl;  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkyl substituted by  $X'$  and  $X'$  being halogen, sulphonyloxy, hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, or an acetal of formyl; and  $X_1$  being in a benzylic position; and isolating the resulting compound of formula (V).

Claim 5 (original): A process for the manufacture of the compound of formula (VI)

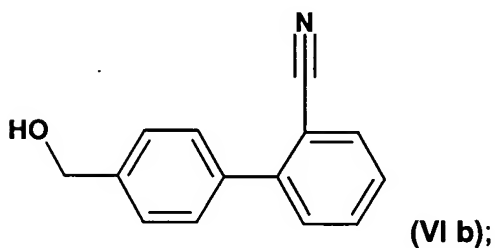


or a tautomer or salt thereof, comprising

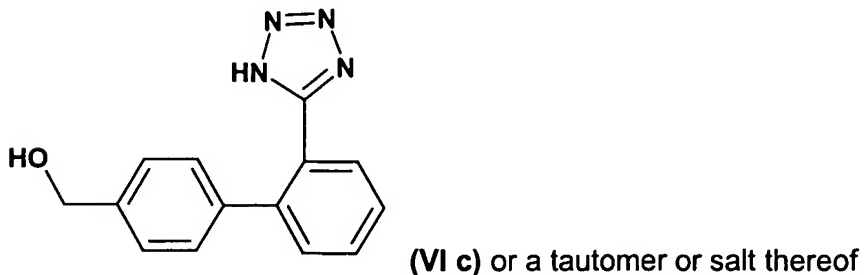
(a) treating a compound of formula (VI a)



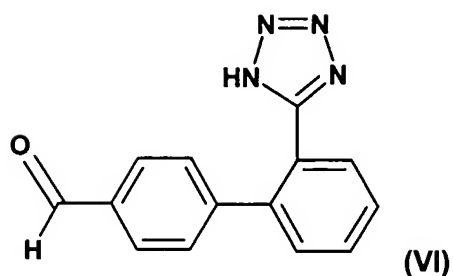
wherein X represents a leaving group, first with a nucleophilic agent and then with a "solvolytic" base resulting in a compound of formula (VI b)



(b) reacting a compound of formula (V b) with an azide of formula  $(R_1)(R_2)M-N_3$  (II b), wherein the variables  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , independently of one another, have the meanings as defined above; resulting in a compound of formula (VI c)



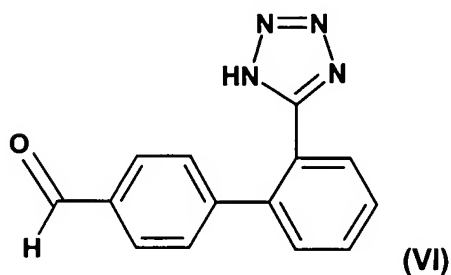
(c) oxidizing a compound of formula (VI c) or a tautomer or salt thereof resulting in a compound of formula (VI)



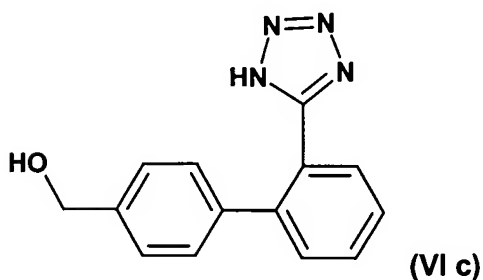
or a tautomer or salt thereof; and

(d) isolating the compound of formula (VI) or a tautomer or salt thereof.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A process for the manufacture of a compound of formula (V c)



comprising oxidizing a compound of formula (VI c)

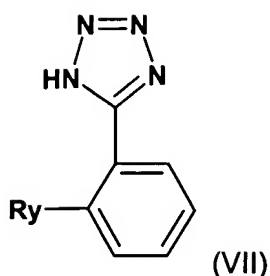


or a tautomer or salt thereof resulting in a compound of formula (VI) or a tautomer or salt thereof; and isolating a resulting compound of formula (VI).

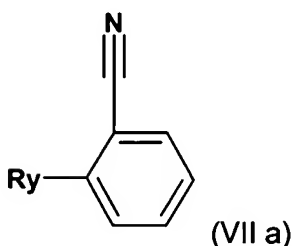
Claim 7 (currently amended): A process according to claim 5, wherein the oxidation is carried out in the presence of an oxidation agent selected from the group consisting of  $\text{HNO}_2$ ,  $\text{HNO}_3$  or a corresponding anhydride thereof, and a peroxodisulfate, and wherein as solvent an alkylated aromatic hydrocarbon solvent ~~such as toluene~~ is used.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A process according to claim 1 for the manufacture of a compound of formula





or a tautomeric form thereof, wherein Ry represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl ~~such as methyl~~; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl substituted by X' and X' being halogen, sulphonyloxy, hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, ~~such as bromomethyl~~, formyl or an acetal thereof; comprising reacting a compound of formula (VII a)



with a compound of formula **(R<sub>1</sub>)(R<sub>2</sub>)M-N<sub>3</sub> (II b)**, wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, independently of one another, ~~represent an organic residue~~ have the meanings as defined above; and isolating the resulting compound of formula (VI).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A process according to claim 1, wherein a compound of formula **(R<sub>1</sub>)(R<sub>2</sub>)M-N<sub>3</sub> (II b)** is used, wherein M is aluminium or boron; and R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, independently of one another, is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl ~~such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, diisobutyl, tert-butyl or n-octyl~~; C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-alkenyl ~~such as allyl or crotyl~~, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl ~~such as cyclohexyl~~; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl ~~such as benzyl or 2-phenethyl~~; phenyl-C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl ~~such as cinnamyl~~, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl ~~such as cyclopropylmethyl or cyclohexylmethyl~~.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A compound of formula **(R<sub>1</sub>)(R<sub>2</sub>)M-N<sub>3</sub> (II b)**, wherein M is aluminium or boron; and R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, independently of one another, is C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-alkenyl ~~such as allyl or crotyl~~, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl ~~such as cyclohexyl~~; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl ~~such as benzyl or 2-phenethyl~~; phenyl-C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl ~~such as cinnamyl~~, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl ~~such as cyclopropylmethyl or cyclohexylmethyl~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A process according to claim 6, wherein the oxidation is carried out in the presence of an oxidation agent selected from the group consisting of  $\text{HNO}_2$ ,  $\text{HNO}_3$  or a corresponding anhydride thereof, and a peroxodisulfate, and wherein as solvent an alkylated aromatic hydrocarbon solvent ~~such as toluene~~ is used.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A process according to any one of claim 2, wherein a compound of formula  $(\text{R}_1)(\text{R}_2)\text{M}-\text{N}_3$  (II b) is used, wherein M is aluminium or boron; and  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$ , independently of one another, is  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkyl ~~such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, diisobutyl, tert-butyl or n-octyl~~;  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$ alkenyl ~~such as allyl or crotyl~~,  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$ -cycloalkyl ~~such as cyclohexyl~~; phenyl- $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ -alkyl ~~such as benzyl or 2-phenethyl~~; phenyl- $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_5$ alkenyl ~~such as cinnamyl~~, or  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_8$ -cycloalkyl- $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkyl ~~such as cyclopropylmethyl or cyclohexylmethyl~~.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A process according to claim 3, wherein a compound of formula  $(\text{R}_1)(\text{R}_2)\text{M}-\text{N}_3$  (II b) is used, wherein M is aluminium or boron; and  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$ , independently of one another, is  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkyl ~~such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, diisobutyl, tert-butyl or n-octyl~~;  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$ alkenyl ~~such as allyl or crotyl~~,  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$ -cycloalkyl ~~such as cyclohexyl~~; phenyl- $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ -alkyl ~~such as benzyl or 2-phenethyl~~; phenyl- $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_5$ alkenyl ~~such as cinnamyl~~, or  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_8$ -cycloalkyl- $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkyl ~~such as cyclopropylmethyl or cyclohexylmethyl~~.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A process according to claim 4, wherein a compound of formula  $(\text{R}_1)(\text{R}_2)\text{M}-\text{N}_3$  (II b) is used, wherein M is aluminium or boron; and  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$ , independently of one another, is  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkyl ~~such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, diisobutyl, tert-butyl or n-octyl~~;  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$ alkenyl ~~such as allyl or crotyl~~,  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$ -cycloalkyl ~~such as cyclohexyl~~; phenyl- $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ -alkyl ~~such as benzyl or 2-phenethyl~~; phenyl- $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_5$ alkenyl ~~such as cinnamyl~~, or  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_8$ -cycloalkyl- $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkyl ~~such as cyclopropylmethyl or cyclohexylmethyl~~.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A process according to any one of claim 5, wherein a compound of formula  $(\text{R}_1)(\text{R}_2)\text{M}-\text{N}_3$  (II b) is used, wherein M is aluminium or boron; and  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$ , independently of one another, is  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkyl ~~such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, diisobutyl, tert-butyl or n-octyl~~;  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$ alkenyl ~~such as allyl or crotyl~~,  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$ -cycloalkyl ~~such as cyclohexyl~~; phenyl- $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ -alkyl ~~such as benzyl or 2-phenethyl~~; phenyl- $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_5$ alkenyl

~~such as cinnamyl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl such as cyclopropylmethyl or cyclohexylmethyl.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended): A process according to claim 8, wherein a compound of formula **(R<sub>1</sub>)(R<sub>2</sub>)M-N<sub>3</sub> (II b)** is used, wherein M is aluminium or boron; and R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, independently of one another, is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl ~~such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, diisobutyl, tert-butyl or n-octyl~~; C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>alkenyl ~~such as allyl or crotyl~~, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl ~~such as cyclohexyl~~; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl ~~such as benzyl or 2-phenethyl~~; phenyl-C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkenyl ~~such as cinnamyl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl such as cyclopropylmethyl or cyclohexylmethyl.~~